



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Masamitsu NAKAMINAMI et al.
Application No.: 09/849,437
Filed : May 7, 2001
Title : MACHINE TOOL

Art Unit: 3712
Examiner: Miller, B.

IDS
#13
6/2/03
B. Ross

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicants request that the enclosed references cited on attached form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

Enclosed also please find a copy of the European Search Report citing these references. The English language abstracts for the non-English references are also enclosed. The relevance of the references can be seen from the European Search Report.

This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph A. Smith
Reg. No. 32,548

Date: May 27, 2003

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

C *omplete if Known*

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.
Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.